Frank Hutchins, HUD Tenants Coalition, 2001

Tenant Platform

We call upon our local, state and federal elected officials, and those seeking elected office to:

1) Preserve Existing Affordable Housing In Good Condition

2) Make Existing Housing Affordable to Very Low Income People

3) Produce More Affordable Housing

By taking the following actions at the National, State and Local level.

Local

Support tenants in Brick Towers right now in their fight to stop their homes from being demolished. (Specific information on how you can help is available through HTC). In general, sound structured housing should not be demolished.

Provide adequate municipal budget for code enforcement. Give tenants easy access to copies of complaints and complaint file for their building.

Eliminate vacancy decontrol in Newark, which allows rents to increase way over the normal yearly amount whenever someone moves out of an apartment. The apartment rent should remain controlled by the regular rent increase process for the new tenants.

Create an effective local Task Force to bring municipal resources to bear when contracts are expiring in specific buildings, in order to prevent the loss of affordable housing units.

Elected officials should take action on those items which are in their purvue, and should actively support the above items which involve other levels of government (for example, local officials should work with tenants to necessary state and federal legislation). Your elected representatives should support these issues.

